

LAND LINE

A Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife land management newsletter

Winter 2004

WELCOME... to the first edition of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) land management division newsletter, "Land Line."

You are receiving this newsletter because of your interest in WDFW management issues on public or private lands in Washington.

WDFW manages land for fish and wildlife needs and for recreation such as hunting, wildlife watching, fishing, camping, hiking, and boating.

Our goal is to keep you informed about these and related issues and to start a dialogue so we can better address your questions and needs. Give us some feedback on what you see here and what other information you want.

We plan to produce this newsletter twice a year. We've sent this first edition both electronically (to those for whom we had e-mail addresses) and in printed form by mail. We would prefer to keep printing and mailing costs down with more e-mail copies, so please send us your e-mail address. If you know others who would like to receive this newsletter, please forward their e-mail addresses, too. Please advise us if you do not want to receive future editions of this newsletter in any form. Thank you!

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Land Line is produced by the Lands Division and Public Affairs Office of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

"Good Neighbor" policy guides lands management

By Dr. Jeff Koenings, WDFW Director

Conservation of fish and wildlife through habitat acquisition and management was the vision and the legacy of one of my predecessors who recently passed away.

Carl Crouse spent most of his 87 years conserving and enjoying fish and wildlife, with 36 years in the Washington Department of Game, including service as director during the 1970's. Carl understood that fully functional habitat is the key to healthy fish and wildlife populations and hence was an early advocate for public land stewardship.

But Carl also understood that effective stewardship had to involve private landowners who not only provided hunter access, but also worked side-by-side with their neighbors to conserve diverse habitats such as wetlands, meadows and free-flowing streams.

Viewed from Carl's perspective, stewardship came with a major responsibility to the general public and, more specifically, to the communities and citizens impacted by specific decisions. Any public agency that neglected this responsibility was certain to fail.

This sentiment is as true today as was when Carl first advocated it several decades ago. And it is why I've committed the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to what I call a "Good Neighbor" policy – a policy that pledges greater community involvement in the development and

(Continued on page 4)

LMAC represents interests across state

WDFW's 19-member Land Management Advisory Council (LMAC) was appointed from among 70 applicants in 2002 to work with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) on land issues through June of 2005.



"The appointment of this new group of advisors is just one of the ways we are working to involve citizens as co-stewards of the state's fish, wildlife and recreational resources," said WDFW Director Jeff Koenings.

WDFW Land Division Manager Mark Quinn, who meets with the LMAC quarterly, said it's more important than ever for the department to seek help in making sound land management decisions. "Fish and wildlife habitat is disappearing across the state at the

same time there's an increasing number of outdoor enthusiasts using state lands and cooperative program private lands," Quinn said.

The LMAC has met quarterly over the past year to discuss many issues you'll see referred to in this newsletter. But first take a look at who these advisors are:

(Continued on page 2)

- **Thomas Bacher** of Bellevue is a retired Boeing industrial engineering administrator who has since worked as an aerospace management consultant and real estate investment advisor. He has published hunting recreation maps and is an avid fisher and hunter.
- **Darrel Bowman** of Tacoma is LMAC chairman and vice-president of AppTech, My Network Company, a technical design and system support service business that works with government agencies, tribes, and businesses throughout the Pacific Northwest. He is also involved in computer technology education at several levels and enjoys fishing, wildlife viewing, camping, and beachcombing.
- **Brian Briscoe** of Montesano is a neighboring landowner to WDFW property in the Chehalis Valley. What WDFW does on its land may impact his property, and vice versa. His participation on the LMAC is an opportunity to communicate concerns with WDFW before problems arise.
- **Brian Davern** of Vancouver is a pilot and outdoorsman with interests in hunting, fishing, hiking, and camping. He has Advanced Hunter Education certification and is a member of Ducks Unlimited, Isaac Walton League, and Flyfishers Club of Oregon.
- **Bob Gatz** of Poulsbo is a civil engineer and outdoorsman interested in big game bowhunting, bird hunting, fishing, and crabbing. He is a member of Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Ducks Unlimited.
- **Jay Holzmiller** of Anatone is a rancher/farmer and private forest land manager. He is a supervisor with the Asotin County Conservation District, dealing with WDFW about elk management and hunting, farm bill issues, weed control and other land management concerns.
- **Brad Johnson** of Marysville is an avid fisherman and hunter who attended both WSU and UW and has a bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management and Forestry. He spent over 20 years with Boeing, has experience as a surveyor in the construction industry, and now he and his wife own "Habitats Northwest", a company specializing in the development and integration of organic farming practices, wildlife habitat, and recreational sites. He joined the Washington Wildlife Federation board of directors in 2000 and represents that group on WDFW's Game and Lands Advisory Councils.
- **Neil Kayser** of Centerville is past president of the Washington's Cattlemen's Association and represents beef producers and ranching interests. He was nominated to serve on the LMAC by the Executive Committee of the Washington Cattlemen's Association.
- **Dan Kinney** of Yakima is representing the Washington's 28 chapters of the Audubon Society. He has been involved in Conservation issues, especially those wildlife issues involving non-game species.
- **Elaine Kleckner** of Seattle is Conservation Plan Manager for the Green/Duwamish and Central Puget Sound Watershed for King County's Department of Natural Resources and Parks' Water and Land Resources Division. She holds a bachelor's degree in outdoor recreation and landscape architecture from Colorado State University and has worked throughout the west in natural resource management and planning in both the public and private sectors.
- **Fayette Krause** of Seattle has been a Land Steward with The Nature Conservancy for 24 years, served on WDFW's Nongame Advisory Committee in the 1980's, and was the State Chair for Referendum 33 in 1973 which provides WDFW funding from personalized motor vehicle license plates. Fayette earned a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Washington.
- **Norm McClure** of Nespelem is a cattle rancher with a bachelor's degree in forestry from Washington State University and a master's in range science from University of Idaho. He has served as a voluntary board supervisor of the Okanogan Conservation District for over 35 years and represents the Washington Association of Conservation Districts on the Washington Rangelands Committee and Coordinated Resource Management Task Group.
- **Tom McCoy** of Selah is the Watershed Restoration Specialist for the Yakama Nation in Toppenish with a master's degree from the University of Wyoming in Rangeland Ecology and Watershed Management. He and his wife are neighbors to the Wenas Wildlife Area. The ranch his mother was raised on in Asotin County was purchased by WDFW. Tom co-chairs LMAC's DNR land acquisition committee.
- **Arvilla Ohlde** of Belfair is the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Edmonds. She has been active in local, regional and national public land issues. She was instrumental in helping form the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition and has worked nationally to reinstate the Land and Water Conservation Fund. She has been involved on both ends of state grants for Aquatic Lands Enhancement, Coastal Zone and IAC Recreation Grants.
- **Tom Rutten** of Seattle was born and raised in Washington and has lived here all of his 46 years. He is a "member-at-large" of the Advisory Council and says that since he lives in the state's largest metropolis, he is most interested in access to public lands for hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, and wild life viewing. He works for Northwest Yachting Magazine, the largest boating magazine in the Northwest, so has a special interest in water access for fishing, particularly Puget Sound.
- **Lorna Smith** of Everett is the supervisor of the environmental section of

Snohomish County's Public Works Department, involved in programs to protect endangered species in areas of urban/suburban development. She was a principal author of the county's first Aquatic Resource Protection Program. She has an Environmental Studies degree from Evergreen College, served on WDFW's Non-Game Wildlife Advisory Council, is a board member of the Snohomish Wetlands Alliance, and is a long-time Auburn Society member.

- **William White** of Easton is LMAC secretary, or "scribe" as he prefers to be called, who farms and ranches in Okanogan County where he's been a long-time WDFW volunteer. He is also an avid sportsman with a formal education as a wildlife biologist. He believes in renewable resource uses and feels obligated to take an active role in wildlife management decision making.

(Replacements for former LMAC members Katherine Bill of Winthrop and Ron Walter of Wenatchee are pending.)

How much land does WDFW manage?

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) manages 826,817 acres statewide.

WDFW currently owns a total of 510,629 acres in wildlife areas, fishing access sites, fish hatcheries, and administrative sites.

WDFW also manages 316,188 acres under agreements with the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition, WDFW co-manages mitigation properties with the Bonneville Power Administration and Tacoma City Light.

WDFW pays taxes, too

This coming April when you file your tax returns, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will be paying taxes, too.

WDFW checks totaling \$606,673.09 were sent to Washington counties last Spring.

The annual payments are in lieu of property taxes on WDFW-owned lands and assessments for fire protection, weed control, irrigation, and other local services on both WDFW-owned and managed lands.

Each county can either retain game violation fines and forfeitures collected within the county, or elect to receive Payments In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) on WDFW property of at least 100 contiguous acres. Most counties that have significant WDFW acreage choose to receive the in lieu payments. In most cases, the payments are equivalent to or more than counties would receive if the property was privately owned and held in open space classification for agriculture or forestry activities.

WDFW is the only state agency that makes in-lieu tax payments on property it owns and manages.

The table shown here lists the in lieu tax and assessment payments that counties received from WDFW last year. Counties with WDFW acreage that show no payments have either not billed the agency for service assessments and/or have chosen to retain game violation fines rather than in lieu taxes. Variations in the taxes per listed acreages may indicate that not all acres are taxed and/or that not all are computed at the same rate. Assessments vary from county to county.



County	WDFW-owned acres	Managed acres	In-lieu taxes	Assessments
Adams	1,165.6	1,971.9	\$0.00	\$10,531.81
Asotin	31,116.3	8,559.0	\$8,525.19	\$0.00
Benton	5,808.0	0.1	\$0.00	\$2,793.59
Chelan	28,284.9	9,671.0	\$18,716.96	\$0.00
Clallam	678.6	340.9	\$0.00	\$1,314.43
Clark	2,949.7	24.3	\$0.00	\$7,883.40
Columbia	10,832.2	881.5	\$7,555.89	\$1,743.97
Cowlitz	4,269.3	1,243.1	\$0.00	\$923.56
Douglas	13,843.2	1,532.9	\$0.00	\$0.00
Ferry	6,902.2	1,202.8	\$6,781.33	\$705.20
Franklin	1,774.2	6,538.7	\$0.00	\$19,412.27
Garfield	6,934.4	121.1	\$4,839.98	\$553.14
Grant	39,168.2	143,204.9	\$37,443.16	\$23,682.06
Grays Harbor	5,018.7	334.8	\$7,264.14	\$0.00
Island	60.3	0.2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jefferson	744.7	64.4	\$0.00	\$0.00
King	1,192.7	88.9	\$0.00	\$14,369.60
Kitsap	894.3	28.4	\$0.00	\$1,049.90
Kittitas	144,938.5	72,586.6	\$115,798.56	\$5,659.04
Klickitat	13,165.7	3,221.6	\$21,416.95	\$806.44
Lewis	410.0	1,153.8	\$0.00	\$0.00
Lincoln	19,197.6	1,307.0	\$0.00	\$1,902.08
Mason	835.0	105.3	\$0.00	\$870.67
Okanogan	64,692.9	13,436.7	\$74,974.35	\$8,229.68
Pacific	3,436.9	59.8	\$0.00	\$489.66
Pend Oreille	745.7	257.0	\$3,308.65	\$0.00
Pierce	3,557.2	95.9	\$0.00	\$8,252.93
San Juan	176.7	0.0	\$0.00	\$275.00
Skagit	11,406.0	1,172.9	\$0.00	\$25,242.87
Skamania	311.7	223.8	\$0.00	\$0.00
Snohomish	2,511.7	462.6	\$0.00	\$12,150.69
Spokane	170.6	8.8	\$0.00	\$929.20
Stevens	261.9	208.9	\$0.00	\$0.00
Thurston	1,667.9	160.7	\$4,905.87	\$10,665.12
Wahkiakum	247.9	57.2	\$0.00	\$0.00
Walla Walla	209.0	235.9	\$0.00	\$12.00
Whatcom	2,859.6	949.6	\$0.00	\$3,053.10
Whitman	2,291.0	36.6	\$0.00	\$0.00
Yakima	75,898.3	44,619.0	\$88,792.82	\$42,846.83
TOTALS	510,629.0	316,188.7	\$400,323.85	\$206,348.24

Budget losses and gains affect WDFW land management

WDFW land management will be affected in several different ways due to both budget losses and gains last year.

The greatest loss was approximately \$1 million in federal funding for Washington's Ecosystem Conservation Project, which makes up about 60 percent of the budget for WDFW's Upland Wildlife Restoration Program in all eastside counties.

WDFW Lands Division Manager Mark Quinn said the funding loss forced cutting nine of the 17 employees in the program who work with farmers and other landowners in voluntary, incentive-based programs to improve habitat for fish and wildlife by planting grasses, trees, and shrubs, modifying agricultural practices and installing water developments. Their work enhances WDFW's ability to negotiate hunting access agreements on many of these private lands.

Over the past decade, the Upland Wildlife Restoration Program has worked with 1,296 private landowners

to enhance hundreds of thousands of acres of wildlife habitat, install 1,100 wildlife watering devices and post 25,000 signs on over three million acres with hunting access and habitat agreements.

"This funding cut is going to have a significant impact on our ability to continue this program without major changes or reductions," Quinn said. "In addition our employees whose positions have been funded by this program have been an important bridge to private landowners and have been instrumental in implementation of various farm bill programs and other conservation initiatives on private lands across the state. Their involvement with local conservation districts, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, The Farm Service Agency and private landowners is one of the big reasons that the Conservation Reserve Program has been so successful in Washington."

Many farmers with acreage enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program

work with WDFW Upland Wildlife Restoration Program staff, Quinn explained. Administered by the Department of Agriculture, CRP compensates farmers for taking highly erodible acreage out of agricultural production to improve water and air quality, soil stability and wildlife habitat. WDFW staff has helped these landowners qualify for CRP compensation through technical assistance and by providing materials to construct enhancements for wildlife.

The second budget blow came with the state legislature's cuts to all state agencies to meet an overall \$3 billion state deficit due to the current poor economy. WDFW has had to make several million dollars in cuts to help address that deficit, including a \$135,000 reduction in annual lease payments for Washington Department of Natural Resource (DNR) lands.

Currently WDFW spends about \$180,000 a year to lease about 125,000 acres of land owned by DNR. Most of the land is "checkerboard" parcels surrounded by WDFW land

Budget losses *(continued from page 3)*

along the east slope of the Cascades. Collectively they make up portions of the L.T. Murray, Oak Creek, Wenas and Colockum Wildlife Areas. These areas are essential for maintaining two of Washington's largest elk herds, in addition to providing habitat for many other species of wildlife. They also provide hundreds of thousands of acres for wildlife recreation. WDFW also leases some hatchery grounds and 13 popular water access sites from DNR.

WDFW staff conducted an assessment of these leased lands for fish, wildlife and recreation in order to identify which can be relinquished with the least impact. Evaluation criteria included the presence of sensitive fish and wildlife, location in relation to other WDFW holdings, public access and manageability. The Lands Management Advisory Council (LMAC) reviewed these rankings and reluctantly supported the need to cut the lowest ranking third of the leases.

"Any way you slice this pie," Quinn told LMAC members, "We will not be able to lease as much land as we have in the past."

The good budget news is that the state legislature also recognized that WDFW needs help to maintain its lands and authorized \$850,000 from the wildlife account for stewardship and maintenance needs on agency-owned lands and water access sites. These funds can only be used for these "stewardship" activities and cannot be used to buy or lease land.

WDFW is using these funds to do a better job of weed control, facilities maintenance, and stewardship in general.

"To get these funds on the ground most effectively," Quinn said, "we need to do a good job of planning. Our staff is currently updating wildlife area management plans to prioritize spending needs."

Quinn also said he wants to engage the public more in helping WDFW

manage its lands.

"We want to know what their expectations are and solicit their help with development and implementation of management plans."

More good budget news is the new federal funding that WDFW gained last year that provides incentives to landowners and others to address the needs of "species at risk" on private lands. ("Species at risk" are federal or state listed, proposed, or candidate species, or others determined to be at risk by WDFW.)

Washington will receive \$1.7 million over the next three years from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) for grants to private landowners whose management benefits these species. See the separate story about this new program, and how to submit a grant proposal, on page five of this newsletter.

"Good Neighbor" policy *(continued from page 1)*

implementation of the Department's land management practices on its publicly-held properties.

An example of this Good Neighbor policy in practice occurred last year when the Department acquired 8,500 acres of steppe grassland and riparian habitat along the South Fork of Asotin Creek and George Creek in southeast Washington.

The land, known as the Schlee property, was originally identified for potential acquisition by the Department because of its statewide conservation significance. Home to a number of native fish and wildlife species, including bull trout, steelhead, and chinook, WDFW land managers proposed purchasing the property using hydroelectric dam mitigation monies available from the Bonneville Power Administration.

But while the Department knew the property was important and already had the funds available to purchase it — including money to maintain the property once it was acquired — it also knew it was extremely important to involve the local community in the acquisition process to build public support.

As such, the Department worked closely with Asotin County Commissioners over a substantial period to secure their support for the acquisition because it made sense for their community. Commissioners, along with other interested local citizens and groups, will now be helping the Department develop a broad management plan for the property that includes potential recreational uses.

This kind of involvement by both public and private citizens is a major component of the Department's Good Neighbor policy. It is the reason why the Department formed its first Lands Advisory Council comprised of 19 citizens representing both eastern and western Washington communities. These private landowners, who will serve three-year terms, are now advising the Department on many aspects of our lands management practices.

But engaging the public in our decision-making processes is only part of a being a good neighbor. So is good communication. We need to correct long-held misconceptions about public land ownership. We need

to make sure our neighbors know why we purchased a particular property, where the boundaries are and what we plan to do with the land. We need to explain how public land ownership can vitalize an area by creating new recreational and other opportunities. And we need to show how healthy fish and wildlife populations are linked to healthy local economies.

Contrary to some beliefs, the Department is not trying to buy every vacant piece of property that comes along. Our ownership of critical fish and wildlife lands at best can only be a foundation for a statewide network that must include a healthy balance of private and public lands. Our approach is "Enlibra" or "toward balance," designed to make progress on complex resource issues by working with our neighbors—individuals, businesses, community groups and local and federal governments.

It is my hope that this newsletter helps us achieve this goal so we may achieve our larger goal — the protection and sustainability of our state's diverse fish and wildlife populations.

WDFW will give you some LIP for your wildlife help

If you would like some financial help to engage in land management practices that help wildlife on your land, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) might give you a little "LIP".

WDFW will receive \$1.7 million over the next three years from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) to help fish and wildlife "species at risk" on private land. A total of \$1.56 million of that fund will be distributed in grants to private landowners who protect, enhance and restore habitat for these species on their land.



For major projects, qualifying property owners can receive up to \$50,000 in LIP funds through an application process being administered by WDFW. Smaller

projects can qualify for grants up to \$3,000 each from a \$100,000 share of the fund set aside for those efforts.

All grants require landowners to make a 25 percent non-federal contribution, which could include cash or in-kind work.

Grant awards will be based on criteria that measure need, scientific merit, cost share, partnerships and other factors.

A "species at risk" is defined as any fish or wildlife species that is federally or state listed as threatened or endangered, is proposed or is a candidate for listing as threatened or endangered, or any other animal determined to be at risk by WDFW.

WDFW has identified 147 species at risk and 8 priority areas for the purpose of this program. The priority areas include: Targeted Easements, Riparian, Shrubsteppe/Steppe, Western Washington Farmland Wetland, Estuary/Nearshore, Coastal Bog and Prairie, Oak Woodlands, and Snags.

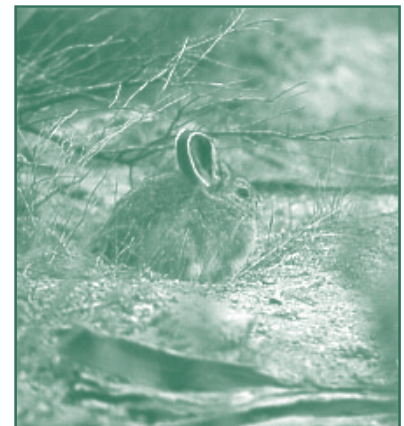
WDFW Director Jeff Koenings said species stewardship on private property is especially important in Washington.

"More than half of Washington's land base is in private ownership, and it's clear that preservation of the state's rich fish and wildlife heritage

will largely be determined by the ability of private landowners to help provide critical habitat for at-risk species," Koenings said.

Applications must be received no later than Feb. 27, 2004.

Application forms and more information on the Landowner Incentive Program are available through WDFW regional offices, the WDFW website on the Internet (www.wa.gov/wdfw/lands/lip/index.htm), or by calling Ginna Correa, WDFW Landowner Incentive Program coordinator, at (360) 902-2478.



WDFW may trade land with DNR

For over 30 years, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has leased Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) lands for fish and wildlife habitat and public recreational fishing access.

Of the 125,000 acres leased, about 90,000 acres are on several large WDFW wildlife areas along the east slope of the Cascades. These checkerboard inholdings are found primarily on the Oak Creek, Wenas, L. T. Murray and Colockum Wildlife Areas in the southcentral region.

"We have always thought it would be a good idea to at least consider a

trade with DNR to consolidate our ownerships and permit more efficient management of these wildlife areas," said WDFW Lands Division Manager Mark Quinn.

WDFW has been spending about \$180,000 per year to lease DNR lands. Now faced with a budget reduction of \$135,000 in the Lands Division for leases, Quinn feels the time has come to seriously pursue land exchanges.

It so happens that DNR is currently engaged in a five-year eastside land inventory, assessment and exchange project in order to improve the financial status of its trust portfolio.

DNR manages land that includes all sections 16 and 36 across the state that were originally set aside as "school sections" with the obligation to produce funds for public schools through timber cutting.

Like WDFW, DNR would like to have larger contiguous parcels instead of checkerboard ownerships to maximize management efficiency.

"Their objectives are consistent with ours," said Quinn, "provided the two agencies can agree on what parcels to exchange and an appraisal process. We do have some timberlands that DNR is interested in and of course we're interested in

Weed control is priority on WDFW lands

Weeds don't make good fish and wildlife habitat.

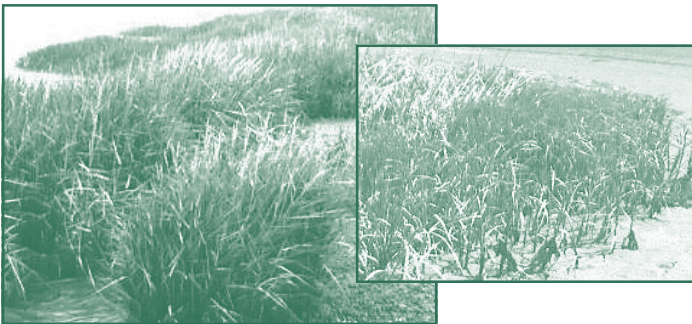
That's why control of invasive, exotic vegetation is a priority on Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) lands.

Using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) — a prioritizing and decision-making model for choosing the most effective, environmentally sensitive and economical pest control strategies — WDFW is winning some major battles in its war on weeds.

Spartina is an aggressive invader of the Pacific Northwest's nearshore ecosystem. It is an aggressive colonizer that displaces native plants and animals historically associated with Puget Sound intertidal and estuarine environment. Tidal plant species supplanted by spartina include two eelgrass species and macroalgae, which some fish species, including salmonids, depend on for feeding, spawning, or rearing habitats.

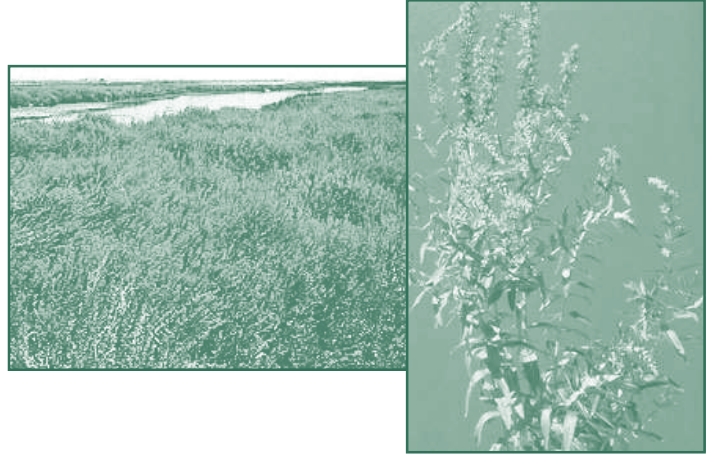
Established spartina is susceptible to mechanical crushing and certain herbicides.

But the best defense is a good offense. When WDFW staff detected a few *Spartina* seedlings in Grays Harbor during biannual weed surveys through the Johns River Wildlife Area, they quickly and inexpensively hand-pulled them and helped avoid a potential infestation of the entire harbor.



WDFW works with a team of state and local agencies in the *Spartina* Advisory Group which applies aggressive control measures to keep *Spartina* from spreading. Ultimately the group hopes to eliminate it from Washington tidelands.

Purple loosestrife is an invasive aquatic weed that can displace native plants like cattails and bulrushes that everything from freshwater fish to furbearing mammals depend on for cover or food. Loosestrife has almost no wildlife value in Washington compared to native plants.



WDFW is currently controlling loosestrife with a variety of methods, but the one that shows the most promise is the galarucela beetle. Once these bugs that feed on loosestrife get established after releases, they severely reduce infestations of the weed. Releases of galarucela beetles on the Columbia Wildlife Area in the early '90's have done just that.

"These are just a couple of examples of the wide variety of weed control efforts underway on our lands across the state," said Paul Dahmer, who supervises WDFW's weed management staff. "We're working in cooperation with federal, tribal and other state agencies, county weed boards, non-profit organizations, and private citizens to develop effective and cost efficient solutions for weed problems."

Dahmer noted that WDFW staff is in the process of updating land management plans statewide, and those plans will include weed inventory, control, and monitoring. Stay tuned to future editions of this newsletter for more weed control information.

WDFW may trade land *(continued from page 5)*

many of the shrub-steppe lands they want to exchange."

Since timberlands appraise higher than shrub-steppe, and neither agency has significant funds for these types of land transactions, the amount of land that may change hands will depend on values. Trading out of leased land to owned land will also still mean an annual increase in the annual Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) for WDFW.

The Lands Management Advisory Council (LMAC) has been looking at this issue with WDFW staff over the past year, and many ideas have surfaced. Suggestions include getting private organizations like the Rocky Mountain Elk

Foundation or Mule Deer Foundation to purchase some of these lands. This past summer the LMAC helped merge WDFW's regional lists of prioritized lands to advance an exchange proposal.

WDFW and DNR are currently looking at what specific lands will be considered for the exchange and developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to address the process of appraisal, appraisal reviews, and other details of exchanging properties. WDFW hopes to have a draft proposal ready for public review sometime this spring.

Livestock grazing policy adopted for WDFW lands



The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission adopted a policy in December of 2002 on domestic livestock grazing on WDFW lands – something that currently occurs on only about five percent of all WDFW lands.

The general policy decision made was that domestic livestock grazing on WDFW owned or controlled lands may be permitted if it's determined to be consistent with desired ecological conditions for those lands, or with the WDFW's "Strategic Plan".

That plan simply states that WDFW acquires and manages land to protect fish and wildlife and their habitats, maintain biodiversity and provide opportunities for fish and wildlife related recreation.

"Livestock grazing can be used as a vegetation management tool," said WDFW lands division manager Mark Quinn, "but like any tool, it needs to be managed properly."

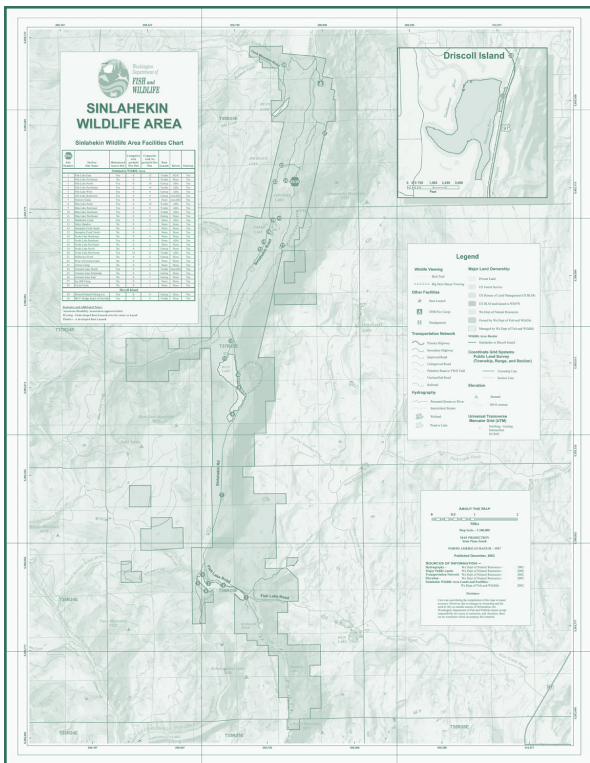
Quinn believes that domestic livestock grazing has unfortunately developed a "bad reputation," based on poor management and historical overuse across the West.

Grazing permits on WDFW lands are closely regulated. They are only used where benefits to fish and wildlife outweigh the cost of the grazing, or where other benefits are provided, like public recreational access to private lands.

In some cases, the long term protection of habitat through acquisition by WDFW is only possible with a reservation for grazing by the seller, although these terms are limited to five years.

The specific conditions of WDFW's new grazing policy are:

- Livestock grazing on WDFW lands is a practice that can be used to manipulate vegetation for fish and wildlife, accomplish a specific habitat objective, or facilitate coordinated resource management. If permitted, livestock grazing must be integrated with other uses to ensure the protection of all resource values, the most important of which is maintaining ecological integrity.
- Grazing permits are of agency-wide interest. The Department will develop procedures that include a cross-program review to ensure all grazing permits are subject to the best available science.
- New grazing permits will be made available for Commission review before being forwarded to the Director for approval. All grazing permits, excluding temporary permits, must include a domestic livestock grazing management plan that includes a description of ecological impacts, fish and wildlife benefits, a monitoring and evaluation schedule, and a description of the desired ecological conditions.
- Coordinated Resource Management Plans will be encouraged where appropriate.
- WDFW will promote adaptive management and continued improvement of programs and practices as new knowledge and understanding of habitat ecology becomes available.



Maps coming!

High quality recreation maps of WDFW ownerships are in the works. Pictured is a sample of the first map, soon to be available, of the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area in Okanogan County. The two color, full size map (approx 24" x 36") will provide details on access, ownership and wildlife information, including lists of species that can be found there. This map will only be available on a limited basis while WDFW evaluates how well the maps meet public needs and ways it might be improved. If you would like to receive a copy of the map to provide feedback please contact the Wildlife Program at (360) 902-2515 or e-mail:

wildthing@dfw.wa.gov.

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WDFW land use requires permit

Vehicle Use Permits are required for use of all posted WDFW lands. The permits generate funding for maintenance of WDFW lands and water access sites used by hunters, anglers, boaters, bird watchers and other recreationists.

One permit is issued once annually to each fishing or hunting license holder and is transferrable between up to two vehicles. Additional permits may be purchased for \$5 each. If purchased separately without a fishing or hunting license, the permit is \$10.

Vehicle Use Permits must be clearly displayed and visible from outside the vehicle. They can be placed on the dash, hung from the rear view mirror or placed on the front seat.

The penalty for parking on WDFW lands without a permit is the standard \$66 parking infraction, but it is automatically reduced to \$30 if the vehicle owner shows proof of purchase of a permit within 15 days of the violation.

Remember to purchase your

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Washington Department of
Fish and Wildlife

VEHICLE USE PERMIT

Doc # 00000000000

Valid From: 04/01/2003 To: 03/31/2004

Vehicle License 1 # _____

Vehicle License 2 # _____

Thanks for your support